

What is claimed is:

1. A crosslinker composition consisting essentially of
  - (a) 50 to 95 weight percent monomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives containing not more than about 0.20 wt. % of imino (>N-H) groups; and
  - (b) 5 to 50 weight percent oligomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives, wherein
    - (i) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
    - 10 (ii) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$ , where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino;
    - (iii) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said
- 15 composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %..
2. The composition according to claim 1 which is liquid at 20 °C.
3. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.6 wt. %.
4. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino
- 20 content of less than about 0.5 wt. %.
5. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.4 wt. %.
6. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.3 wt. %.
- 25 7. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.2 wt. %.
8. The composition according to claim 1 wherein said when said alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives are methoxymethyl melamine derivatives.
9. The composition according to claim 8 which is liquid at 20 °C.

10. The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.6 wt. %.
11. The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.5 wt. %.
- 5 12. The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.4 wt. %.
13. The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino content of less than about 0.3 wt. %.
14. The composition according to claim 8 wherein said composition has an imino  
10 content of less than about 0.2 wt. %.
15. The composition according to claim 1 wherein for each mole of melamine in the melamine derivatives in said composition there is at least 5.6 moles of alkoxyethyl groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms of said melamine, where the alkoxyethyl groups are mixtures of methoxyethyl and minor amounts  
15 higher alkoxyethyl groups; where the amount of higher alkoxyethyl groups present does not inhibit curing of a standard coating at 66 °C to a hardness which survives at least 30 MEK rubs.
16. A crosslinker composition comprising monomeric and oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine, wherein monomeric alkoxyethylated melamine  
20 molecules have 6 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, wherein said substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of imino [ $>\text{N}-\text{H}$ ], methylol [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ], alkoxyethyl [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OR}$ ] and acetal [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{OR}$ ]; and wherein difunctional bridging groups between melamine units in oligomeric  
25 alkoxyethylated melamine are selected from the group consisting of methylene groups [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] and methylene ether [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] groups; wherein:  
(a) monomeric alkoxyethylated melamine units comprise at least 50 and up to 95 percent by weight of the monomeric and oligomeric alkoxyethylated melamine units in the composition as determined by size  
30 exclusion chromatography,

- (b) alkoxymethyl groups comprise at least 5.0 moles of substituent groups  
attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine,
- (c) said alkoxymethyl groups on each melamine unit are methoxymethyl or  
mixtures of methoxymethyl and higher alkoxymethyl groups;
- 5 (d) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said  
composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
- (e) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said  
composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X -$   
0.2, where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is  
10 expressed in weight percent imino;
- (f) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said  
composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %.